

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00990 160938Z
ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 /083 W
-----053283 161742Z /43
R 160740Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4498
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0990

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EAID, ECRE
SUBJECT: CORPS OF ENGINEERS

REF: (A) JIDDA 5167, (B) MUSCAT 0981

1. WE FOUND REF A OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. IT ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER LETTER FROM OMANGOV FOREIGN MINISTRY PROPOSING CORPS OF ENGINEERS INVOLVEMENT IN OMAN (TEXT TRANSMITTED REF B). WHILE WE ARE NOT SURE THERE IS CONNECTION, THE THOUGHT NATURALLY OCCURS THAT OMANGOV HAS HEARD OF POTENTIAL CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT IN SOMALIA AND HOPES TO GET IN ON THE SAME CONCEPT.

2. THIS INTERPRETATION OF OMANGOV INTENTIONS FITS IN WITH WHAT WE HAVE LONG VIEWED AS OMANGOV EFFORT TO COMMIT U.S. MORE CONSPICUOUSLY TO OMAN, A GOAL ALL THE MORE ACUTE IN OMANI EYES AFTER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, AFGHANISTAN, AND SOUTH YEMEN. OMANGOV HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY DISAPPOINTED IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO "CATCH" THE U.S. CONNECTION, BUT IT HAS NOT GIVEN UP TRYING. IT SEES THIS AIM AS A LEGITIMATE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTEREST, AND NOW ONE OF SOME URGENCY.

3. THE FACT THAT SAUDI FINANCING MIGHT SUPPORT THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS IS CERTAINLY AN ADDED PLUS TO THE OMANGOV. THE PROPOSED SAUDI-U.S. PARTNERSHIP IN SOMALIA IS THUS A PERFECT MODEL
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IN THE OMANI PERSPECTIVE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY SEE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRING THE U.S. MILITARY AND SAUDI MONEY INTO OMAN SIMULTANEOUSLY.

4. WE WILL SEEK TO CLARIFY OMAN'S INTENTIONS IN CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER SOURCES.
SIZER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: ENGINEERING, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
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Draft Date: 16 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Litigation History:
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